

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Previously Presented) A method of adjusting a preloading force of a spring in a solenoid valve, said method comprising the steps of:

interconnecting a valve tappet, a magnet armature and a compression spring to form a subassembly to be incorporated into the solenoid valve;

connecting a device onto the subassembly with a bottom portion of the device seated on an end of the magnet armature, the device having a stepped bore into which an end of the compression spring projects;

guiding a weight in the stepped bore under the influence of gravity until a bottom surface of the weight contacts the end of the compression spring that projects in the stepped bore; and

applying a displacing force to the valve tappet to displace the valve tappet relative to the armature, the displacing force being selected to displace the weight by a predetermined stroke distance corresponding to an operational clearance to be maintained after the subassembly is incorporated into a solenoid valve.